(b) if so, the reasons for not nominating the persons whose names have been sent, so far;

(c) whether Goverment are aware that the area covered being too big, the demand for nomination of one person is not sufficient; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to increase the number of Members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. As per provisions of Railway Users' Consultative Committee, representation is given to one nominee of each Hon'ble Member of Parliament/Lok Sabha on each of the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCC) serving his/her constituency. Similarly Hon'ble Member of Parliament/Rajya Sabha can nominate one nominee on each of the DRUCC serving the District selected by him/her under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). Accordingly Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been requested to advise the name (s) of the nominees (in the prescribed proforma) for nomination on the respective DRUCC(s).

(b) The names of representatives of Hon'ble MPs for nomination on DRUCCs received in prescribed proforma have since been communicated to Zonal Railways concerned for nomination.

(c) and (d) Hon'ble Members of Parliament of Lok Sabha can nominate one nominee each on DRUCCs, if his/her constituency is served by more than one Division. Nomination of more than one nominee is not proposed for the present, as it would result in nominating a large number of persons on these Committees.

Double Line on Hapur-Moradabad rail route

4779. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propsoe to lay down double line on Hapur-Moradabad rail route;

(b) if so, the time schedule and if not, the specific reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that passenger trains and goods trains both run late by several hours due to single railway line there resulting in undue delay in transportation of goods; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to make specific provisions in the Budget to convert this line in the next two years, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The work of doubling of Hapur-Moradabad section has been taken up. Double line between Amroha-Moradabad has since been completed and commissioned. The work of doubling of Amroha-Kankather (31 kms.) is targeted for completion during 2005-06. The target of the remaining section between Kankather-Hapur (42.71 kms.) has not yet been fixed and completion would depend upon availability of resources.

(c) Some trains get delayed due to single line working on this route.

Increasing the Speed of Shatabdi Express

4780. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increase in the speed of Shatabdi Express has been put on hold;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government feel that it may be dangerous to run the fastest trains on the Indian Tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. It was contemplated to increase the maximum speed of Shatabdi Express between New Delhi-Agra Cantt section, to 150 kmph. The track and signalling system, available on this section, is adequate to run such a train.

However, the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS) has not, so far, cleared the running of this train and has drawn attention to issues like provision of fencing throughout to prevent cattle straying on to track, train protection and warning system as an additional measure to prevent a driver passing signal at danger, provision of frills on lifting barrier at level crossing gates as an additional measure to prevent entry of road users in a closed gate, Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) of rails by Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) car in addition to manual testing etc. Action has been taken to satisfactorily address all these issues, before the train is run.